

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended): A method for breaking the viscosity of aqueous fluids comprising a guar or derivatized guar polymer gel, the method comprising adding an effective amount of at least one aminocarboxylic acid or a salt thereof to act directly on the polymer to break down the gel.
2. (Currently amended): The method of claim 1 where the aminocarboxylic acid acts directly and predominantly on the polymer and not rather than substantially on any crosslinking ion, if present.
3. (Original): The method of claim 1 where the polymer gel is not crosslinked.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Original): The method of claim 1 where the aminocarboxylic acid is selected from the group consisting of ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA), propylenediamine-tetraacetic acid (PDTA), hydroxyethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (HEDTA), nitrilo-triacetic acid (NTA), ethylenediaminetriacetic acid (HEDTA), ethylenediaminediacetic acid (H₂EDDA), dihydrate ethylenediaminediacetic acid (2H₂O EDTA), salts of these acids, and mixtures thereof.
6. (Original): The method of claim 1 where the aminocarboxylic acid is selected from the group consisting of the sodium salt, the potassium salt, and the ammonium salt of the acid.
7. (Original): The method of claim 1 where the method is conducted at a temperature between about 120°F (49°C) and about 280° F (138°C).

8. (Original): The method of claim 1 where in adding the aminocarboxylic acid, the amount of aminocarboxylic acid added ranges from about 0.1 to about 30.0 pptg (from about 0.01 to about 3.4 kg/m³) based on the total volume of fluid.

9. (Currently amended): A method for breaking the viscosity of aqueous fluids comprising a guar or derivatized guar polymer gel, the method comprising adding an effective amount of at least one aminocarboxylic acid to act directly and predominantly on the polymer ~~and not~~ rather than substantially on any crosslinking ion, if present, to break down the gel, where the aminocarboxylic acid is selected from the group consisting of ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA), propylenediaminetetraacetic acid (PDTA), hydroxyethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (HEDTA), nitrilotriacetic acid (NTA), ethylenediaminetriacetic acid (HEDTA), ethylenediaminediacetic acid (H₂EDDA), dihydrate ethylenediaminediacetic acid (2H₂O EDTA), salts of these acids, and mixtures thereof, and where the method is conducted at a temperature between about 120°F (49°C) and about 280° F (138°C).

10. (Original): The method of claim 9 where the polymer gel is not crosslinked.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Original): The method of claim 9 where the aminocarboxylic acid is selected from the group consisting of the sodium salt, the potassium salt, and the ammonium salt of the acid.

13. (Original): The method of claim 9 where in adding the aminocarboxylic acid, the amount of aminocarboxylic acid added ranges from about 0.1 to about 30.0 pptg (from about 0.01 to about 3.4 kg/m³) based on the total volume of fluid.

14. (Currently amended): An aqueous fluid comprising
water;
at least one guar or derivatized guar polymer capable of forming an aqueous gel;
and
at least one aminocarboxylic acid or a salt thereof in an amount effective to
subsequently act directly on the polymer to break down the gel.
15. (Previously amended): The fluid of claim 14 in the absence of a borate crosslinker.
16. (Cancelled)
17. (Original): The fluid of claim 14 where the aminocarboxylic acid is selected from the group consisting of ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA), propylenediamine-tetraacetic acid (PDTA), hydroxyethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (HEDTA), nitrilotri-acetic acid (NTA), ethylenediaminetriacetic acid (HEDTA), ethylenediaminediacetic acid (H₂EDDA), dihydrate ethylenediaminediacetic acid (2H₂O EDTA), salts of these acids, and mixtures thereof.
18. (Original): The fluid of claim 17 where the aminocarboxylic acid is selected from the sodium salt, the potassium salt, and the ammonium salt of the acid.
19. (Original): The fluid of claim 14 where in adding the aminocarboxylic acid, the amount of aminocarboxylic acid added ranges from about 0.1 to about 30.0 pptg (from about 0.01 to about 3.4 kg/m³) based on the total volume of fluid.
20. (Currently amended): An aqueous fluid comprising
water;
at least one guar or derivatized guar polymer capable of forming an aqueous gel;
at least one aminocarboxylic acid or a salt thereof in an amount effective to
subsequently act directly on the polymer to break down the gel; and
the absence of a borate crosslinker,

where the aminocarboxylic acid is selected from the group consisting of ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA), propylenediaminetetraacetic acid (PDTA), hydroxyethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (HEDTA), nitrilotriacetic acid (NTA), ethylenediaminetriacetic acid (HEDTA), ethylenediaminediacetic acid (H_2EDDA), dihydrate ethylenediaminediacetic acid ($2H_2O$ EDTA), salts of these acids, and mixtures thereof.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Original): The fluid of claim 20 where the aminocarboxylic acid is selected from the sodium salt, the potassium salt, and the ammonium salt of the acid.

23. (Original): The fluid of claim 20 where in adding the aminocarboxylic acid, the amount of aminocarboxylic acid added ranges from about 0.1 to about 30.0 pptg (from about 0.01 to about 3.4 kg/m^3) based on the total volume of fluid.